

Message Text

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SUBJ: RED FLAG ATTACK ON FUKIEN BOOKLET

SUMMARY. AN APPARENT RED FLAG ATTACK ON MILITARY REGION COMMANDER HAN HSIEN-CH'U FOR ALLOWING THE CIRCULATION OF A BOOKLET PRAISING LIN'S MILITARY REPUTATION COULD EASILY BE EXTENDED TO ATTACK OTHER MILITARY COMMANDERS WHO FAIL OR HAVE FAILED TO TAKE PART IN CRITICISM OF LIN'S MILITARY REPUTATION. END SUMMARY.

1. AN APRIL RED FLAG ATTACK ON A BOOKLET CIRCULATED FROM FUKIEN IN 1971 PRAISING LIN PIAO'S ROLE IN THE NORTHEAST CAMPAIGN APPEARS TO SPELL TROUBLE FOR HAN HSIEN-CH'U , WHO HAD BEEN MILITARY REGION COMMANDER IN FUKIEN WHEN THE BOOK APPEARED (HONG KONG 3905).

HOWEVER, THE BOOKLET ONCE AGAIN RAISES THE QUESTION OF LIN'S MILITARY REPUTATION, STEMMING FROM HIS GENERALLY PRAISED COMMAND ROLE IN THE NORTHEAST CAMPAIGN IN 1948. (HONG KONG A-132 OF 1973). MAO APPEARS BENT ON DIVESTING LIN OF HIS OVERALL
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MILITARY REPUTATION AND OF HIS ROLE IN THE NORTHEAST CAMPAIGN

IN PARTICULAR. THE CURRETN RED FLAG ARTICLE CONDEMNS LIN'S PASSIVE AND ERRONEOUS ROLE IN THE NORTHEAST AND ALSO HIS " TACTICAL PRINCIPLES" WHICH ARE ASAID TO BE ANTITHETICAL TO MAO'S STRATEGIC GUIDELINES.

2. THERE HAS SEEMED TO BE A GENERAL RELUCTANCE TO CRITICIZE LIN'S MILITARY REPUTATION IN OPEN MEDIA AND THIS MAY REFLECT EFFORTS BY PLA REGION COMMANDERS AND OTHERS TO DISASSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM AN ISSUE WHICH HAS LOW CREDIBILITY AND WHICH MIGHT EASILY AFFECT THEIR OWN POLITICAL STANDING. IN THE EARLY 1960'S , LIN'S "TACTICAL PRINCIPLES," AS DISTILLED FROM THE NORTH-EAST CAMPAIGN, HAD BEEN PAINSTAKINGLY INCORPORATED INTO THE REVISED MILITARY MANUAL FOR THE ARMED FORCES AS A COMPLEMENT TO MAO'S TEN MAJOR MILITARY PRINCIPLES. YEH CHIEN-YING PARTICULARLY AND THEPLA COMMAND STRUCTURE GENERALLY HAD ENDORSED THIS SYNTHESIS OF MAO'S STRATEGY AND LIN'S TACTICS AS GOOD (SEE HOOVER INSTITUTE TRANSLATION OF PLA "BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES," PAGE 317). NOW THESE SAME TACTICS ARE DENOUNCED AS BAD. THIS PLACES MANY RANKING MILITARY LEADERS IN A VULNERABLE POSITION SHOULD MAO OR CONTENDING FACTIONS NOW CHOOSE TO EXPLOIT THE ISSUE. THUS IF THE PLA COMMAND STRUCTURE, FOR WHATEVER REASONS, CONTINUES TO AVOID OR SOFTPEDAL ATTACKS ON LIN'S MILITARY TEPUTATION, OTHER MILITARY COMMANDERS IN ADDITION TO HAN HSIEN-CHU'U COULD COME UNDER SIMILIAR ATTACK. (HONG KONG'S A-79 FOLLOWS).
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